

REMARKS AND INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Final Office Action of July 19, 2010 ("Final Action"). Applicants further appreciate the Examiner's courtesy in a telephone Interview on October 13, 2010, wherein Applicants' undersigned representative and the Examiner discussed the rejections of independent Claims 1, 20, and 39. Agreement was reached that Claim 1 would appear to distinguish over the art of record if amended to recite that the speech generating device is "an accessory device" and that the functional cover comprises "an interface for physically attaching the speech generating device to the apparatus via a system connector." Agreement was not reached regarding Claims 20 and 39. The above constitutes a complete summary of the telephone Interview between the Examiner and the undersigned pursuant to MPEP §713.04.

Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to clarify the distinctions over the art of record discussed during the Interview. Support for these amendments may be found, for example, at page 5, lines 4-8 of Applicants' Specification. Additionally, Applicants have amended independent Claims 20 and 39 to clarify that the "speech generating device is configured to provide a spoken reading of the displayed data at an adjustable rate." Support for these amendments may be found, for example, at page 7, lines 10-11 of Applicants' Specification. Applicants have also amended dependent Claims 7, 26, and 40 to maintain consistency with independent Claims 1, 20, and 39. Furthermore, dependent Claims 48 and 49 have been added to include recitations similar to dependent Claim 45, which depends from Claim 1. Claims 48 and 49 depend from Claims 20 and 39, respectively. Claim 17 has been canceled. No new matter has been added. For at least the reasons discussed in detail below, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of all rejections and the allowance of all claims.

Independent Claim 1 Is Patentable over Roth in View of Lee

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0049388 to Roth et al. ("Roth") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0022503 to Lee ("Lee"). (*See* Final Action, page 4.) As indicated by the Examiner during the telephone Interview of October 13, 2010,

independent Claim 1, as amended, appears to distinguish over Roth and Lee. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is patentable for at least this reason and respectfully request the allowance thereof.

Independent Claims 20 and 39 Are Patentable over Roth in View of Lee

Independent Claims 20 and 39 also stand rejected over the combination of Roth and Lee. (*See* Final Action, pages 8-10.) Applicants submit that amended Claims 20 and 39, however, are patentable for at least the reason that Roth and Lee, whether alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest a device that is configured to provide a spoken reading of displayed data at an adjustable rate. Amended Claim 20, for example, recites:

An apparatus, comprising:

a display configured to display various readable data;

a control unit; and

a speech generating device including a conversion circuit therein configured to convert received data to a speech signal and configured to be connected to a speaker system,

wherein the control unit is configured to extract a part of the displayed data and send the extracted part of the displayed data to the speech generating device, and wherein **the speech generating device is configured to provide a spoken reading of the displayed data at an adjustable rate.** (*Emphasis added.*)

In rejecting Claim 20, the Final Action cites paragraphs [0371]-[0373] of Roth as disclosing that the control unit is configured to “send the extracted part of the displayed data to the speech generating device at a fixed and/or controllable rate.” (*See* Final Action, page 9.) The cited portions of Roth, however, state:

[0371] **If the user scrolls an item in the correction window, functions 9448 and 9450 use TTS to say the currently highlighted choice** and its selection number in response to each such scroll. If the user scrolls a page in a correction window, functions 9452 and 9454 use TTS to say that newly displayed choices as well as indicating the currently highlighted choice.

[0372] When in correction mode, if the user enters a menu, functions 9456 and 9458 use TTS or free recorded audio to say the name of the current menu and all of the choices in the menu and their associated numbers, indicating the current selection position. Preferably this is done with audio cues that indicate to a user that the words being said are menu options.

[0373] **If the user scrolls up or down an item in a menu, functions 9460 and 9462 use TTS or pre-recorded audio to say the highlighted choice and then, after a brief pause, any following selections** on the currently displayed page of the menu. (*Emphasis added.*)

It is thus unclear how the cited portions of Roth might disclose or suggest any type of **adjustable rate** at all. Additionally, Claim 20, as amended, recites that “the speech generating device is configured to provide a **spoken reading of the displayed data at an adjustable rate**,” which is not disclosed or suggested by Roth or Lee, whether alone or in combination. (*Emphasis added.*) For example, Roth’s description of saying a highlighted choice and then briefly pausing before saying any following selections does not disclose or suggest adjusting the rate of saying the highlighted choice or adjusting the rate of saying the following selections. Rather, Roth merely appears to be describing (a) that the highlighted choice is said after a user scrolls up or down a menu and (b) that a brief pause is included between saying the highlighted choice and saying following selections, neither of which describes or suggests a spoken reading of displayed data at an adjustable rate. Additionally, Lee does not describe or suggest text-to-speech at all, but instead describes a dual-display mobile phone that has an auxiliary display on its upper end and a main display mounted on its front surface. (*See Lee, paragraph [0002] and Figures 1 and 2.*) Accordingly, neither Roth nor Lee, whether alone or in combination, discloses or suggests that “the speech generating device is configured to provide a spoken reading of the displayed data at an adjustable rate,” as recited in amended Claim 20.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 20 is patentable for at least these foregoing reasons. Furthermore, Claim 39, as amended, also recites that “the speech generating device is configured to provide a spoken reading of the displayed data at an adjustable rate,” and Claim 39 is thus patentable for at least the reasons discussed above for Claim 20.

The Dependent Claims Are Patentable

The dependent claims are patentable at least per the patentability of the independent claims from which they depend. As each of the dependent claims depends from a base claim that is believed to be in condition for allowance, Applicants do not believe that it is necessary to argue the allowability of each of these claims individually. Applicants do not necessarily concur with the Final Action’s interpretation of these claims, or with the bases for rejection

set forth in the Final Action. Applicants therefore reserve the right to address the patentability of these claims individually as necessary in the future.

Conclusion

Accordingly, based on the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicants respectfully request allowance of these claims and passing the application to issue. Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact the undersigned to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

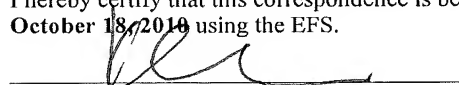


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